


11. A disposable loading unit according to Claim 9, wherein said longitudinal pathway defined in said staple cartridge body is configured to allow said blade to be lowered substantially out of said tissue contacting plane adjacent a distal portion of said linear slot.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 are currently pending in this application. By this Amendment, Claims 5-11 have been added. Original Claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 5911353 are pending in this application and are unaffected by this Amendment. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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